



# Love Is A Crime



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## Chapter 1 by Nui

The smell of fresh air immediately energized Emma, and she started smiling the instant it hit her face. As she was joined by a group of guys who she played soccer with, she reminded herself that she should be staying inside to study for tomorrow's math test. But the guiltiness just wouldn't come, and she stopped trying to force it, instead choosing to enjoy the next 15 minutes of break. The wind whipped Emma's dark black hair into her face, making her sputter. Jason, one of her friends, simply snorted, and she whacked him in the arm.

"That hurt," he muttered, not even bothering to put on an injured look. She just shook her head, and ran ahead to the snowy field. Her other friends, Zeke, Sujana, and Rose were all waiting for her, laughing about some inside joke as she joined them.

"What?" Emma asked, a small nagging voice in the back of her mind telling her that they were obviously talking about her.

"Nothing, just that you took a hella long time to get your butt over here." Zeke snorted, trying hard to contain his laughs.

"Don't you dare talk about my butt," she retorted, making Sujana and Rose laugh.

"Anyways, are you guys actually going to play today, or not?" Emma added, crossing her fingers behind her back. Sujana simply shook her head, and said, "We have gym next anyways. So I'm going to be smart and save my energy for that." Rose said, "Go on, Emma, we all know you're dying to kick the ball." Sujana groaned, and Rose asked defiantly, "What?"

"Nothing, it's just that that sound..." See more of Story Wars

"You're so dirty minded, a..."

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"Who, me? I'm perfectly innocent," Emma stammered. Sujana whined again, and Zeke said, "What now?"

"That sounds worse," Sujana muttered, and Zeke looked a little pained as he said, "I think you're the only here that's so dirty minded, it's not even me or Rose." Shaking her head, Emma left before she could hear Sujana's comeback. She quickly joined a random team, and waited for the ball to come over to her side. This is what she enjoyed the most about team sports, the fact that while you waited for your turn to come, you could do absolutely nothing, and let your thoughts run wild. She hated having to keep herself focused all the time. It drained her of all her energy, and in the end, she was so tired, she couldn't even bother to stop her mind anymore. She found herself usually staring out the window, or maybe staring at some random person in front of her, or maybe at her bare nails, for a whole 15 minutes before the bell rang. She would become restless, and even went to the extent of daydreaming, which was always dangerous. When you daydreamed, your feelings would always show up on your face clearly, and teachers had this kind of sixth sense that pointed them to who was paying attention and whose mind was miles away, using people's expressions to guide them. So Emma never let herself daydream, and this way, she could think as many random thoughts as she'd like, and would never be caught.

"EMMA!" A voice rang out, bringing Emma out of her thoughts. She quickly turned, and the ball simply hit her back and bounced off. At the moment, she was playing defence, so she ran up to the ball to kick it farther down the field, letting the others on her team get it. She sighed, when someone tapped her on the shoulder.

"So, I was wondering if you'd be nice enough to help me with my math homework during lunch." Jason smiled, making Emma instantly smile back. Emma was a kind of smiley person, and she found that she had a special gift of making even the grumpiest people nice enough to hang around. Jason was a perfect example of this. He used to be an extremely annoying guy, but a week with Emma and bam! He was still pretty annoying, but it was the kind of annoying you got used to. Actually, not really. Zeke and Rose still didn't exactly like Jason, as they still found him pretty annoying. Emma wondered if it was actually she who had changed, who had become

more open. Either way, Jason hung out with them sometimes, and in Emma's eyes, it was all good.

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"You mean the homework?"

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"Pretty please?" She couldn't stand it when people begged, and Jason knew this.

“Fine. But you owe me!” she shouted after him, as he ran back up to his proper position as midfielder. She rolled her eyes, and went back to defending, her eyes on the game but her head in the clouds. Way sooner than she liked, the bell rang again, signalling the end of break. She walked back inside, not bothering to wait for anyone, so she could have a few more minutes of peace and quiet. She quickly went to her locker, then took her boots off. Sujana joined her, as Sujana’s locker was no more than 2 spaces away. Jason was right next to Emma, then it was a preppy girl named Brittany, then none other than Sujana. Jason quickly came, and as Emma got her lunch out, he chatted away with the other girl. A brief feeling of annoyance at the way Jason was turned towards Sujana flitted into Emma’s stomach, but she quickly shut it down, reminding herself that she was independent and didn’t need a guy to make her feel great about herself. Plus, she knew that Sujana liked Jason, or at least suspected, by the way she kept popping up whenever Jason was around. Sighing, Emma quickly walked into the cafeteria and sat down at her ‘reserved’ spot, or where she and her friends had always sat, since the beginning of high school.

Soon enough, she was joined by the others. Rose and Zeke came in, teasing each other as usual. Emma secretly shipped them at certain times, but then at others, they were squabbling over random things, and tempers could run high. Emma usually tried to intervene, but sometimes, it was better to just let it go, because even though they would fight today, the two best friends would always ‘kiss and make up’ before the day ended. They sat down, and Rose glanced at Emma’s homework before commenting in an off-hand way, “Aren’t you finished with that already?” Emma nodded, and Zeke said, “Well, then, why do you have it here? Isn’t break supposed to be, you know, a break from all school stuff in general?” Then Rose elbowed him, and motioned to the doorway, where kids were shuffling in. Jason was walking towards them, and Sujana was only a few steps behind, clearly a little disappointed. She quickly sat down beside Rose and Emma, and watched as Jason sat at the other side of Emma, very clearly ignoring Sujana’s pointed looks. Rose looked around awkwardly, and even Zeke glanced down at the floor, trying to ignore the tension at the table. Emma couldn’t take it anymore, so she blurted, “So. Do you guys know that apparently, tomorrow is Happiness Appreciation Day?”

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"I think it is my business, seeing as I know Emma way better than you do, and she never asked you, she actually asked Rose and Zeke." At this, Rose and Zeke exchanged glances again.

"Then why are you even talking? Why don't you just shut up?"

"I'll shut up when you shut up, moron."

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